

No 26<sup>th</sup>

New Town Long Island

Sept<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1776

Allow me my dearest Father to congratulate you on a Victory the King's Troops obtained over the Rebels at Bedford near Brookland on the 27<sup>th</sup> of last Month; which both in its immediate & consequential Effects, is likely to be of the greatest Advantage to Great Britain. On the 26<sup>th</sup> at Night We marched from Utrecht on this Island, where we had landed without Opposition, & passing thro' Fletlands made for a gorge in the Mountains which We flattered ourselves was not Guarded, in Order to gain the left Flank of the Enemy. This Plan succeeded even beyond our Expectations, for we were on the Flank, & in their Rear, before they knew what we were about. The Engagement did not begin till the advanced Guard under Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton & Lord Cornwallis had arrived at Bedford, & before I could get up with the Army the Affair was over. I had however an Opportunity of sending the light Infantry of the Guards to attack a Party of the Rebels, but they ran away directly & only allow'd the Guards just Time to give them one Fire, our loss on this Occasion is scarce to be mentioned. We had only five Officers & fifty seven Men killed, & about 20 Officers wounded. In short our whole Loss in killed, wounded, & missing, does not exceed 300 Men, Whereas on the Rebel side by the very best Acc<sup>ts</sup> from themselves they have lost upwards of 3000 Men. We have taken three Gen<sup>ls</sup> besides a surprizing Number of Field & other Officers & 1500 Private Men Prisoners. This was intirely owing to our Men attacking them the proper Way. The moment the Rebels fired our Men rushed on them with their Bayonets & never gave them Time to load again—



Our Men behaved themselves like British Troops fighting in a good Cause. I cannot omit mentioning the Guards at whose Head I had the Honor to be ~~at~~ that Day. The Spirit & Alertness of both Officers & Men deserve the highest Encomiums. Their readiness & willingness to do whatever they were desired, has gained them the Esteem & Approbation of the whole Army. In short, they are not only the finest Body of Men that ever was seen, but it seems to be the Study of every Officer & Man amongst them to be as distinguishable for Discipline, Spirit, & Conduct, Nothing is a Hardship, nothing is a difficulty with Them. Whatever they are directed to do, they do with Chearfullness & Pleasure. I am happy to be able to do them this Justice which they richly deserve & I am sure His Majesty must be pleased to hear that His Guards have proved themselves worthy of the Honor they enjoy of being near His Person when at Home, by their very proper & spirited Conduct when in the Field. On the 30<sup>th</sup> about 3 in the Morn<sup>g</sup> the Rebels evacuated or rather fled from all their strong Works at Brookland & passed over to New York, leaving behind them, Cannon, Stores, Horses, Provisions & even most of their Tents. And giving us up by this means quiet Possession of Long Island, In consequence of which We marched on Yesterday to this Place, where almost every body has come in to Us, such as have been in Arms or Active have surrendered Themselves, & all taken the Oaths, Whole Reg<sup>ts</sup> we are informed have deserted from them at New York, & in short they are in the greatest State of Confusion. They feel severely the Blow on the 27<sup>th</sup> & I think I may venture to assert, that they will never again stand before us in the Field. Every Thing seems to be over with Them, & I flatter myself now that this Campaign will put a total End to the War. I own it will on many Acc<sup>ts</sup> give me great Satisfaction if that should be the Case but on none more,



than because it will afford me an Opportunity soon of convincing  
you in Person with what sincerity I am

Your most dutifull  
& most Affectionate Son

Percy

Maj<sup>r</sup> Layler one of Gen<sup>l</sup>. Howe's Aid de Camps will be good  
enough to present this to you. If you should see L<sup>d</sup>. or L<sup>ts</sup>. Mylesford  
I beg you will be so good as to tell them, that M<sup>r</sup>. Finch is going  
on remarkably well & is perfectly safe & unhurt.

RW 358(2) MS.C. 31.39.9



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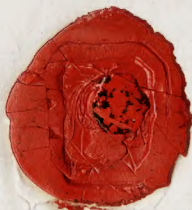
The Reverend  
The Dean of Carlisle

Dear Sir

Carlisle



13



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RW 358(3)